

## Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 PORT A 00806 082135Z  
ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-08 AID-05 OES-06 FEA-01 INT-05  
CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 PRS-01 /045 W  
-----090220Z 077061 /73

R 082002Z MAR 77  
FM AMEMBASSY PORT AU PRINCE  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4250  
INFO USDOC WASHDC  
AMEMBASSY SANTO DOMINGO  
HQDA WASHDC//DAEN-ZA//  
USCINCSO QUARRY HT CZ  
CINCLANTFLT NORFOLK VA  
COMNAVFORCARIB ROOSEVELT RDS  
COMNAVBASE GTMO BAY CUBA  
USIA WASHDC

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE PORT AU PRINCE 0806

EO 11652 N/A  
TAGS: EQUIP, HA  
SUBJECT: HAITI'S ELECTRIC POWER SHORTAGE: GOH REQUESTS INTERIM AID

1. SUMMARY: GOH ASKED THE U.S. MARCH 4 TO HELP SOLVE A SEVERE ELECTRICITY SHORTAGE BROUGHT ABOUT BY THE UNUSUALLY SEVERE DROUGHT WHICH HAS CAUSED A RAPID DRAW DOWN OF THE WATERS IN THE LAKE PELIGRE HYDRO-ELECTRIC FACILITY. FINANCE MINISTER EMMANUEL BROS AND NATIONAL BANK DIRECTOR ANTONIO ANDRE, ON PRESIDENT DUVALIER'S INSTRUCTIONS, APPROACHED AMBASSADOR AND POWER AUTHORITY DIRECTOR WAINWRIGHT PROVIDED DETAILS. EMBASSY CONCURS THAT EMERGENCY ACTION IS WARRANTED. THIS MESSAGE ANALYZES SITUATION AND TRANSMITS SPECIFIC GOH REQUESTS FOR ASSISTANCE. END SUMMARY.

2. HAITI'S USUAL DRY SEASON ELECTRIC SHORTAGES HAVE BEEN EXACERBATED BY EXCEPTIONALLY DRY WEATHER IN THE UPPER  
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 PORT A 00806 082135Z

ARTIBONITE VALLEY WATERSHED OF THE PELIGRE DAM HYDRO-ELECTRIC FACILITY AND CONSTRUCTION DELAYS IN THE WORLD BANK FINANCED THERMAL ELECTRIC PLANT. HARDEST HIT IS THE PORT AU PRINCE AREA WHERE NORMAL DEMAND IS ABOUT 30-32 MW. EXCEPT FOR A FEW PROVINCIAL CITIES WITH SMALL THERMAL PLANTS, THE REST OF HAITI LACKS ELECTRICITY.

3. TO SERVE PORT AU PRINCE, THERE ARE CURRENTLY TWO POWER FACILITIES, THE PELIGRE HYDRO-ELECTRIC FACILITY AND THE ANTIQUE THERMAL UNIT IN PORT AU PRINCE. A THIRD GENERATING FACILITY, A THERMAL PLANT FINANCED BY THE WORLD BANK, MAY BE IN SERVICE BY SEPTEMBER.

A. THE PELIGRE DAM FACILITY HAS THREE TURBINES OF 15.7 MW EACH AND A NOMINAL CAPACITY OF 47.1 MW. MOST OF THE TIME, THERE ISN'T ENOUGH WATER IN THE LAKE TO OPERATE THREE TURBINES AND NORMAL PRODUCTION IS 30-31 MW. WHEN LAKE PELIGRE IS FULL, GENERATING 30 MW PER DAY LOWERS THE WATER LEVEL BY 6 CM. HOWEVER, THE LAKE IS FAR FROM FULL AND EVEN WITH THE MOST RIGID CONSERVATION MEASURES, INCLUDING REDUCTION OF GENERATING TO THE CURRENT LEVEL OF 11-12 MW, THE WATER LEVEL IS DROPPING AT AN ACCELERATING RATE AND IS EXPECTED TO FALL BELOW THE LEVEL OF THE PENSTOCK INTAKES BY EARLY APRIL. THE DRY SEASON USUALLY CONTINUES THROUGH LATE APRIL AND LAKE PELIGRE IS UNLIKELY TO HAVE MUCH WATER IN IT BEFORE JUNE.

B. THE PORT AU PRINCE THERMAL ELECTRIC FACILITY HAS A NOMINAL CAPACITY OF 13-14 MW BUT RARELY PRODUCES MORE THAN 5 MW. IT IS IN SUCH BAD CONDITION THAT IT CANNOT BE OPERATED CONTINUOUSLY.

C. THE WORLD BANK IS FINANCING A THERMAL PLANT DESIGNED TO PRODUCE 21 MW. HOWEVER, MAJOR COMPONENTS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 PORT A 00806 082135Z

WERE DAMAGED WHILE BEING MOVED FROM THE PORT TO THE PLANT SITE AND HAD TO BE RETURNED TO THE MANUFACTURER FOR REPAIRS. THUS, THE STARTUP DATE OF THE PLANT HAS BEEN DELAYED FROM APRIL TO SEPTEMBER.

4. CURRENT POWER PRODUCTION FOR THE PORT AU PRINCE AREA NOW CONSISTS OF THE 11-12 MW FROM PELIGRE AND THE 5 MW FROM THE PORT AU PRINCE THERMAL PLANT FOR A TOTAL OF 16-17 MW. WITH A NORMAL DEMAND OF 30-32 MW, THERE IS A 15 MW SHORTAGE. MOST AREAS OF THE CITY ARE WITHOUT POWER SEVERAL HOURS A DAY AND FACTORIES HAVE BEEN ASKED TO GO ON A FIVE-HOUR WORK DAY AND A FIVE-DAY WORK WEEK. THE PELIGRE POWER SOURCE MAY, AS NOTED ABOVE, END IN EARLY APRIL. THE REMAINING POWER SOURCE, THE PORT AU PRINCE THERMAL PLANT, HAS A POTENTIAL OF ONLY 5-6 MW BUT ANTICIPATED BREAKDOWNS COULD REDUCE THAT POTENTIAL TO ZERO. WITHOUT GOH ACTION, THE PROSPECTS FOR PORT AU PRINCE WOULD BE ZERO POWER FROM APRIL TO JUNE, WITH SOME PICKUP FROM PELIGRE IN JUNE AND

FROM THE NEW THERMAL PLANT IN SEPTEMBER.

5. ALTHOUGH SLOW IN RECOGNIZING THE PROBLEM, THE GOH AT THE HIGHEST LEVELS IS NOW AWARE OF THE GRAVITY OF THE SITUATION AND IS SEEKING A SOLUTION, ALMOST ANY SOLUTION. IT RECOGNIZES THAT A THREE TO SIX MONTH POWER SHORTAGE WOULD SERIOUSLY DISRUPT PRODUCTION AND CAUSE RENEWED BALANCE OF PAYMENTS PROBLEMS. THE GOH ASSURES THE EMBASSY THAT FOREIGN EXCHANGE IS AVAILABLE TO RENT OR PURCHASE NEEDED EQUIPMENT.

6. THE GOVERNMENT HAS ASKED THE EMBASSY:

A. IF ANY NEARBY U.S. MILITARY FACILITY HAS A SPARE 10-20 MW POWER GENERATING BARGE WHICH MIGHT BE AVAILABLE FOR RENT? THE EMBASSY TOLD THE GOH THAT IT IS MOST UNLIKELY THAT THERE ARE ANY SUCH BARGES LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 04 PORT A 00806 082135Z

AVAILABLE NEARBY BUT THAT WE WOULD CHECK. SHOULD MILITARY ADDRESSEES HAVE A POWER BARGE IMMEDIATELY AVAILABLE, PLEASE LET US KNOW.

B. IF ANY NEARBY U.S. MILITARY FACILITY HAS PACKAGES GENERATING UNITS WHICH MIGHT BE RENTED?

C. IF A U.S. MANUFACTURER HAS 1-2 MW CONTAINERIZED DIESEL GENERATORS IN STOCK WHICH MIGHT BE AVAILABLE IN THE NEXT FEW WEEKS? MELLEY ENERGY COMPANY OF FT. LAUDERDALE, FLORIDA TELEPHONED THE EMBASSY FRIDAY AND SAID THAT IT HAS TWENTY CONTAINERIZED GENERATING UNITS WITH A CAPACITY OF 1 MW EACH AVAILABLE. THE GENERATORS APPEAR TO BE COMPATIBLE WITH HAITIAN STANDARDS AND TO OFFER THE BEST SOLUTION. THE GOH IS CONTACTING MELLEY DIRECTLY.

7. THE EMBASSY UNDERSTANDS THAT AID/WASHINGTON MAY BE ABLE TO LOCATE 4.5 MW DIESEL GENERATING UNITS. WE WOULD GREATLY APPRECIATE LEARNING IF THE UNITS ARE AVAILABLE, WHERE THEY ARE LOCATED, HOW MUCH THEY COST, WHETHER THEY CAN BE RENTED, AND HOW LONG IT WOULD TAKE TO GET THEM TO HAITI.

8. THE THREE HOUR RESPONSE TO EMBASSY REQUEST (MENTIONED ABOVE PARA 6C) BY THE DEPT OF COMMERCE DESK OFFICER FRED KAYSER IS GREATLY APPRECIATED.  
ISHAM

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** REPORTS, ELECTRIC POWER, FOREIGN ASSISTANCE, DROUGHTS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Sent Date:** 08-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Date:** 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1977PORTA00806  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D770080-0365  
**Format:** TEL  
**From:** PORT AU PRINCE  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1977/newtext/t19770382/aaaacuhp.tel  
**Line Count:** 167  
**Litigation Code IDs:**  
**Litigation Codes:**  
**Litigation History:**  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Message ID:** 102cfebb-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Office:** ACTION ARA  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 4  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Retention:** 0  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 25-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 3177003  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** HAITI'S ELECTRIC POWER SHORTAGE: GOH REQUESTS INTERIM AID  
**TAGS:** EQUIP, HA, US  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**vdkgvwkey:** odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS\_Docs/102cfebb-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
22 May 2009  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009